

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Oakland, 1883 (?)  
(first part of letter missing)

she did not cry, but said she would not let me go. I said well, but if she were not good now she should not have the candy tomorrow morning before breakfast as I had promised Elsie, after she had decided to be good. Daisy gave a whimper and then held up her face to be kissed, Elsie now begged me to stay a moment longer with them so I took my watch and counted to sixty which much amused them, and they finally let me go with smiles. Well what do you think of this? I was very gentle with Elsie and had my arm around her nearly all the time, and I think it was a new idea to her to be good because she loved me, it amused her, she said it was a funny way. Poor little girl I am awfully sorry for her, but really I do do the best I can for her, and I think she will remember now.

We played with the cards this afternoon, I took from Daisy, Elsie, doll and chair, gave each child and Susie one and made them look at it while I counted five, then shuffled them together and made them choose the one they thought theirs, made fun of the mistakes and played with the right guesses. They seemed to think it very good fun and were very clever. I only let them have them about ten minutes. Tomorrow I will try again but if I find I cannot amuse the children as I did today I will leave it for you. I played shop with them for a few minutes too, in this way I think they may learn and remember something without much labor. The wings have not grown on the caterpillars yet, but they are thriving on fresh oak leaves. The children are better served, but we at our table are 2 reduced to one waiter, however I don't feel worse off than before.

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I made out your address on your letter without much trouble and thought myself quite smart, if you like you can practice by writing a small part of your letters to me in your script.

Goodnight my dear husband, Much love from yours ever, Mabel. (letter unsigned)